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No.81

April 2006

Return of Rhode Island Osprey

The first report of an osprey sighting occurred on March 15th, a week later than last season. Most returnees have already arrived and nest building activity is well underway. As in the past, we know of ospreys frequenting some familiar places but cannot as yet locate their nests. However, any assistance with the following would be helpful: Warwick (by Cranberry Pond), East Greenwich (Greenwich Cove), North Kingstown (Belleville Pond & Gilbert Stuart Pond), Exeter (Arcadia hatchery), Richmond (Carolina hatchery), Little Compton (Simmons Mill Pond WMA), and the north end of Portsmouth near St. Mary's Pond.

Cooperators are once again encouraged to report any data on new and existing nest sites, including incubating activity, number of young, and disturbance factors. **(please contact me for forms if you are not currently a cooperator or need additional copies)** This information will greatly ease the difficulties encountered in trying to monitor all of our ever-increasing nesting locations.

The following are known osprey nest locations: *new nest ?-not active recently

Palmer River 1/North	Barrington	Turco Marsh	North Kingstown
Palmer River 2/South	Barrington	Port of Providence	Providence
Rumstick Point	Barrington	Olney St. Seekonk	Seekonk
Washington Rd	Barrington	Bisquit City Rd	South Kingstown
Hutch's Dam	Block Island	Factory Pond	South Kingstown
Ninigret ?	Charlestown	Hanson's Landing	South Kingstown
Shannock Rd ?	Charlestown	Pond St.	South Kingstown
United Nuclear ?	Charlestown	Theatre by the Sea	South Kingstown
Luther Property ?	Coventry	Ruecker Refuge	Tiverton
Bucklin Point	East Providence	Forge Rd.	Warwick
Mobil Tank Farm #2	East Providence	Spring Green Cove?	Warwick
Pierce Field*	East Providence	Chapman Pond	Westerly
Killingly Pond ?	Glocester	Maschaug Pond*	Westerly
Narragansett Trail Central	Hopkinton	Little Maschaug Pond	Westerly
Narragansett Trail North	Hopkinton	Napatree Point 1	Westerly
Jamestown South Pond	Jamestown	Quarry Rte. 78	Westerly
Quicksand Pond	Little Compton	Rt 91 Train tracks	Westerly
Sunnybrook Farm	Narragansett	Winnapaug Breach Dr.	Westerly
Narrow River Duck Blind	Narragansett	Winnapaug Atlantic Ave.	Westerly
Narrow River Powerlines	Narragansett	Foster Cove Rd.	Westerly
Gooseberry (aka Bailey's) Beach	Newport	Super 8 Motel	West Greenwich
Quonset Navy Yard Facilities Bldg.	North Kingstown		

Cooperators may contact the Division for more specific information on these osprey nest locations.

Cooperators (Its been said before, but its worth repeating!)

Volunteer cooperators do much of the monitoring of the ospreys in Rhode Island. The osprey database is approximately one hundred years old and still ongoing. In order to continue an accurate record, volunteers are needed more than ever. As the population of ospreys increases, the assistance of additional cooperators is critical in making an accurate assessment of RI osprey reproductive success.

★ **Volunteer hours are extremely valuable** to the Division, not only in helping complete important tasks, but also because volunteer time can be used by the Division as a way of generating funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service through the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration grant. **Volunteer hours are considered an in-kind donation, and are eligible for match money**, which is returned to the osprey program. Enclosed for all of our active volunteers is a **volunteer time sheet to be filled, signed and returned to the Division at the end of the osprey-nesting season**. If you did not receive a form and are interested in becoming a cooperator, please call the Division for data sheets and volunteer forms. Please send the original signed form back to the Division, no faxes or copies.

New Osprey Platforms

South Kingstown Water Authority with assistance of National Grid relocated the Succotash Water Tower birds to a new pole. National Grid is also working on repairing the Hanson's Landing and Pond St. sites on active electrical lines.

The Ocean View Foundation is planning on placing additional poles on Block Island in preparation for future nests. Kim Gaffett and Michael Wagner are largely responsible for this effort.

Conanicut and the Marsh Meadow's Web Cam

The young osprey from Marsh Meadows in Jamestown, Conanicut, is enjoying his time in Cuba this spring. Rob Bierreguard of the University of North Carolina placed a radio transmitter on Conanicut last fall and is still tracking him on his first year of life. To view Conanicut and other New England ospreys with radio transmitters visit <http://www.conanicutraptors.com/Tracking.htm>. The osprey cam is up and running at <http://www.conanicutraptors.com/webcam.htm> to keep current on the Marsh Meadows pair. The first siting of the male occurred on March 30, with the female returning the following day.

Electronic Newsletter

As the *Osprey Newsletter* is also posted on the DEM website, we will be happy to notify you by email if you wish to receive electronic copies of the newsletter, in the future. Please send me a quick email to subscribe electronically. Keep in mind that conventional mail will still be required for all volunteer hours, as mandated by federal granting rules and regulations.

Corrected Northeast Totals for 2005

State	No. Nests Surveyed	No. Active	No. Successful	No. Young	Young/ Active	Young/ Successful
CT*						
MA**	159	133	79	142	1.06	1.79
NH	54	43	34	62	1.44	1.82
NY***	52	52	31	56	1.09	1.81
RI	140	98	80	143	1.46	1.79
VT	75+	75	--	102+	--	--
Totals	429+	315	217	470+	1.49	inc.

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The Osprey Newsletter is made possible, in part, by the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act, Rhode Island Project E-1.